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National Media Contact:

Sobia Khan 519-749-8491 Ext. 130

skhan@huntingtonsociety.ca

#LightItUp4HD Calgary

(Calgary, AB) May 24, 2017 – Did you know May is Huntington Disease (HD) Awareness Month in Canada? To celebrate, local monuments across the nation, including the Calgary Tower, will be illuminated in blue and purple lights.

“Seeing national and global monuments lit up in the colours representative of HD and Juvenile Huntington Disease is a great way to gain a better understanding of the impact of the disease on generations of families,” says Sobia Khan, Communications Coordinator for the Huntington Society of Canada. “It means so much to the families impacted by HD to not only see nationwide recognition of the disease, but awareness around the world as well.”

Volunteers from a network of local chapters across Canada have worked hard to raise awareness about the disease and the support available to the thousands of Canadian families affected by HD.

On May 26, Calgarians will see the Arts Commons, Calgary Tower, Glenbow Museum, Reconciliation Bridge, Olympic Plaza, Stephen Avenue Galleria Trees, and Telus Spark lit up with pride in blue and purple, the HD colours.

“Many of those affected by Huntington disease keep it a secret from their families in fear of the stigma and discrimination associated with the disease,” adds Khan. “The #LightItUp4HD campaign is an opportunity to raise awareness, make connections, start a conversation, garner support from Canadians, and move forward with pride and dignity.”

Other countries taking part in the #LightItUp4HD campaign this month, include Scotland, Germany, Spain, Ireland, and the United States. The first Light It Up 4 HD event was held on May 4, 2015, in Toronto, with the CN Tower.

To take part and help spread the word, the Huntington Society of Canada invites Canadians to share photos of their local monuments lit up in HD colours and use the hashtag #LightItUp4HD on social media.

For a tour around the Calgary monuments and interviews with the Huntington Society of Canada - Southern Alberta Chapter members, please feel welcome to meet up with the team on **May 26 at the Phil and Sebastian Coffee Roasters - Simmons building, 618 Confluence Way S.E., at 8 p.m.**

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Huntington disease (HD) is a debilitating brain disorder that is fatal and currently incurable. About one in every 7,000 Canadians has HD and approximately one in every 5,500 is at-risk of developing the disease. Many more are touched by HD as a caregiver, a family member or a friend. HD causes cells in specific parts of the brain to die. As the disease progresses, a person with Huntington disease becomes less able to manage movements, recall events, make decisions and control emotions. The disease leads to incapacitation and, eventually, death. Many describe the symptoms of HD as having ALS, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's simultaneously.

The **Huntington Society of Canada (HSC)** is a respected leader in the worldwide effort to end Huntington disease. HSC is the only Canadian health charity dedicated to providing help and hope for families affected by the disease across Canada.

Media Contact:

Sobia Khan
Communications Coordinator
Huntington Society of Canada
1-800-998-7398 Ext. 130
skhan@huntingtonsociety.ca